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SOURCE Hadak Utjan.

ORGANIZATION, TRAINING, AND SOVIETIZATION
OF HUNGARIAN ARMED FORCES

At the conclusion of the organization and training year ending in October 1951, the Hungarian armed forces attained the stage of development ordered by the Soviets. Youths belonging to the 1927 - 1928 classes, drafted for the previous training year, were not demobilized when the 1929 - 1930 classes were called up. Thus, the number of troops in training, approximately 120,000 men, was doubled. At the same time, the number of units on maneuver was also doubled. Since the barracks necessary for housing the troops had not been completed by fall 1951, peacetime location of some of the units and even the headquarters of certain units had to be shifted. However, this is not the final picture, since more barracks will have been completed by November 1951, and the entire troop structure will enter a new phase to comply with the provisions of the 1948 master plan, as described in Hadak Utjan, December 1950.

I. NUMERICAL STRENGTH

The actual strength of the army has undergone several changes during 1951, since youths belonging to age classes not yet drafted were also called up. Thus, in addition to the 1927, 1928, 1929, and 1930 classes serving at present, a large number of men were drafted from the 1931, 1932, and 1933 classes. Calling up of the latter group became necessary because of the high rate at which officers and noncommissioned officers are constantly eliminated. The entire 1931 and 1932 classes will be ordered for active duty in October, resulting in an additional force of 120,000 men, which amounts to a 50-percent increase in the army's "peacetime" strength.

Youths born in 1931 received induction orders before scheduled in September. To facilitate their housing, some of the soldiers, mainly infantry of the 1927 and 1928 classes, were demobilized at the end of September. Accommodations were still insufficient, partly because the 20-year-old group is larger than average, partly because the physical standards are so low that the number of rejected persons is less than 15 percent.

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According to age classes, the army consists of the following groups:

1. Men serving their first year -- 20-year-old recruits, 21- and 22-year-old soldiers not drafted previously with their age groups, and deferred draft-ees.
2. Men serving their second year -- 21- and 22-year-old soldiers and deferred persons.
3. Men serving their third year -- 23- and 24-year-old soldiers assigned mainly to technical branches, the air force, and specialized units.

A single age class between the ages of 20 and 30 years represents one percent of the nation's total population. If the population of Hungary is put at 9 million, then one age class equals 90,000 men. Only one third of this number is deferred at most, which means that for the 1950 - 1951 training year the Hungarian People's Army numbered over 240,000 men [Classes of 1927, 1928, 1929, and 1930].

During the year, men were also drafted from the more advanced age classes, partly for retraining and partly to fill administrative and technical posts. These men have not been demobilized. Today, there are more than 15,000 commissioned and noncommissioned officers, despite the fact that many officer candidates are rejected by the Kossuth Academy -- now merely the headquarters for the regional officer training schools -- and the various officer training schools, because they are below officer intelligence standards.

The deficiencies of the officer corps became so painfully evident when the Soviet military staff reviewed the maneuvers last fall that, to avoid future embarrassment, the Ministry of Defense was obliged to draft high-ranking officers who had served in World War II for active duty. These officers were generally demoted, often to noncommissioned ranks. Very few former staff officers were called, because most of them had been deported in May 1951. However, those whose knowledge and experience were indispensable were assigned to civilian duty with higher commands.

II. STRUCTURE OF PEACETIME ARMY

At the end of the 1951 organization and training year the armored forces had the following components:

A. Ground Forces

1. One armored division with headquarters at Gyongyos, composed of two tank regiments, two mechanized rifle regiments, one motorized artillery regiment, and technical and service units. The tanks are old and new Soviet T-34s with 76- and 85-millimeter guns. A few Stalin-type heavy tanks were added recently. This division is the most modern and best-equipped unit of the armed forces. Its equipment is serviced by factories at Miskolc-Diosgyor and near Budapest.
2. One motorized rifle division with headquarters at Esztergom, composed of one T-34 tank regiment, two motorized rifle regiments, and one artillery regiment. Units of this division are stationed at Vac, Esztergom, Tata, Pilis-Csaba, and Retsag.

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3. One partly motorized rifle division with headquarters at Kiskunhalas. This division is reinforced by a T-34 tank battalion located in the vicinity of Szeged. Subsequently, this division will have the same organization as the Esztergom division.

4. Six infantry divisions, mainly horse-drawn, stationed at Tab, Varpalota, Papa, Kaposvar, Kiskunfelegyhaza, and Nyiregyhaza, respectively. Each division is composed of two infantry regiments and one artillery regiment with technical and service troops. Some of their reconnaissance units are motorized, the 17th Division is in the most advanced stage of motorization. This division is stationed near Tab in a wooded area and is housed in barracks. The infantry divisions are not numbered systematically and are usually known by their APO numbers. Each division has approximately 12,000 men, not counting the service troops.

It was suggested recently that troops used as border guards, under the command of the AVH (State Security Authority) since the beginning of January 1950, be placed again under the jurisdiction of the army. This change will probably be made in southern Hungary, since troops on the southern border have been more heavily armed and the whole area is being rapidly fortified because of the increasing tension with Yugoslavia.

Units of the ground forces participated in the maneuvers held between the Danube and Tisza rivers from 27 March to 10 April 1951. The maneuvers consisted of launching a successful counterattack on hypothetical Yugoslav invaders. They were directed by the commander of the army corps at Kecskemet under Soviet supervision.

Adequate information is not available on whether the three army corps commands at Kecskemet, Szekesfehervar, and Budapest will receive permanent status as corps headquarters.

B. Air Force

The Hungarian Air Force consists of two air regiments: one stationed at Kecskemet, and the other at Tapolca. Each is made up of two battalions. One battalion is equipped with Yak-9 fighters; the other, with type IL-10 Stormovik fighter-bombers.

At the Tokol (Formerly Horthy Liget) air field, Hungarian pilots are being trained to fly Soviet MIG jet fighters. When the group of Hungarian pilots who have been in training in the USSR since September 1949 return, probably this fall, to Hungary, an independent jet fighter battalion will be established. To date, only a few of the pilots have returned, and they were transferred to the 2d Air Regiment.

Fliers are trained at the Budaors, Matyasfold, and Szolnok air fields, as well as at the Kecskemet and Tapolca air regiment headquarters. To keep up with the large-scale construction of air fields, the training of ground crews had to be accelerated. An air force service battalion is being trained at the Szekesfehervar-Tac air field. There is a national air force maintenance training center located in and around Szekesfehervar.

Paratroopers: The strength of the paratroop battalion previously located at Szolnok was doubled in 1950 - 1951. As a result, 50 percent of the battalion was transferred to Kaposvar as an independent battalion. The strength of the Hungarian paratroopers will soon double again because of the large-scale training program directed by the Szabadsagharcos Szovetseg (Association of Freedom Fighters) and the Magyar Repulo-Szovetseg (Association of

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Hungarian Aviators). As a result of this training, a paratroop brigade consisting of three or four battalions will be formed. Soviet LI-2 transport planes will carry these troops for the Hungarian Air Force.

C. River Forces

The Hungarian river force consists of two monitors, ten armored motorboats, and a few mine sweepers and mine layers. They are used to support ground troop operations along the Danube and for technical assignments.

III. SOVIETIZATION

The entire structure of the Hungarian armed forces has been patterned on that of the Soviet. Not only are Hungarian troops trained in the USSR and Soviet Army soldiers detailed to train the Hungarians, but even the uniforms and rank insignia of the Soviet Army have been adopted. Potayev and Sikorskiy, Soviet citizen, have been mentioned as possible successors to the Minister of Defense, Mihaly Farkas. Each military headquarters has been assigned a Soviet advisory board. Food supply of the troops has deteriorated; moreover, the discipline has been made stricter and treatment is rough. Real fighting spirit is almost nonexistent.

With the exception of Bulgaria, Hungary maintains a larger standing army in proportion to its population than any of the other Satellites, as is shown in the following table:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Standing Army</u>
Poland	22,000,000	300,000
Czechoslovakia	12,000,000	240,000
Rumania	16,000,000	280,000
Bulgaria	7,000,000	240,000
Hungary	9,000,000	250,000

IV. REFRESHER TRAINING AND REORGANIZATION

Refresher training is given to the 1923, 1924, 1925, and 1926 classes. They receive training in summer camps for a period of 2 or 3 months, and are not included in the "peacetime" army of 250,000.

Data on reorganization and insignia follows.

A. Ground Forces

Considerable changes were made during the last training year. The army corps headquarters received permanent status as higher training and operational commands and now are composed of staff members of the most successful divisional headquarters. Thus, the Budapest corps command was developed from the command of the armored division; the Szekesfehervar corps command, from the

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Székessfehervar rifle division; and the Kecskemet corps command, from the 12th Rifle Division. The original divisional commands were shifted from Budapest to Gyongyos, from Székessfehervar to Veszprem, and from Kecskemet to Kiskunhalas.

The commands of the Soviet occupation forces located in the vicinity of the various corps headquarters exercise supervision: the Third Army Corps at Kecskemet is supervised by the command of the Soviet 2d Mechanized Division stationed also at Kecskemet. (The army corps are numbered just as unsystematically as the divisions and regiments.)

Organization takes place "in depth," i.e., there are relatively few high echelons (corps and other strategic units), while the subordinate units, such as regiments and independent battalions, are at almost wartime strength.

After completion of the specialized training, most of the divisions are not composed of three infantry regiments, two or three artillery regiments, and the necessary supporting service units. Most of the outfits are mechanized. The divisions also include so-called "storm" artillery, equipped with 76-millimeter Soviet-type armored guns mounted on tanks. Thus, the average peacetime strength of the reorganized Hungarian divisions having substantial striking power has risen to 15,000 men.

Components of the army corps, such as medium and heavy artillery and technical and special units, have also been established. Although the actual number of army corps has not increased, the existing corps have greater fire power. Technical units, such as engineering and signal formations, have been expanded considerably, provided with up-to-date equipment, and are being drilled in Soviet combat methods. However, due chiefly to the shortage of fuel, motorization of army units has not kept pace with modern requirements.

R. Air Force

The Hungarian Air Force is organized on the Soviet pattern, too. Air regiments are uniform and have the same number of fighter planes grouped in three or four air squadrons. Lack of high-ranking personnel made this simplified organization necessary. In addition, commands of the intermediate units were depleted by the newly established air regiments.

The Air Force still consists only of Yak-9s, MIG-15s, IL-10s, reconnaissance, and LI-2 units. The available bombers are insignificant. The permanent air fields serve principally as bases for the Soviet Air Force. The supreme commander of the Hungarian Air Force is Lt Gen Sandor Hazi, a true Moscow-line Communist.

New antisircraft gun emplacements have been set up at strategic points for both military and civilian defense. Air defense is being developed, aided by radar equipment copied from an American set. The National Air Defense Center was reorganized, and courses in civil defense are being conducted. Air raid preparedness measures are also in effect.

C. Officer Candidate Schools

The various officer candidate schools granted commissions on Party Day, 20 September. The largest is the Dozsa military school at Pecs, which awards approximately 800 army commissions annually.

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D. Insignia of the Hungarian Army

Rank insignia of members of the Hungarian Army (see appended illustration) appear on the epaulets, as in the Soviet Army.

The private's epaulet is of the same material as his uniform. Volunteers for additional service and regular army soldiers with the rank of private have their branch insignia on their epaulets. Privates, first class, have one, corporals two, and squad leaders (ranking between corporal and sergeant) three silver chevrons, 4 millimeters wide each.

Inverted T gold braid, 7 millimeters wide, is worn by sergeants; inverted T gold braid and one gold stripe is worn by staff sergeants; and inverted T gold braid and two gold stripes, by master sergeants.

Gold braided epaulets with narrow borders indicate the service branch of company and field grade officers, the only difference being that company grade officers have one gold stripe and metal stars, while field grade officers have two gold stripes and embroidered stars.

Both enlisted men and officers have yellow metal buttons on their epaulets. The insignia of a political officer is a red star with embroidered gold border.

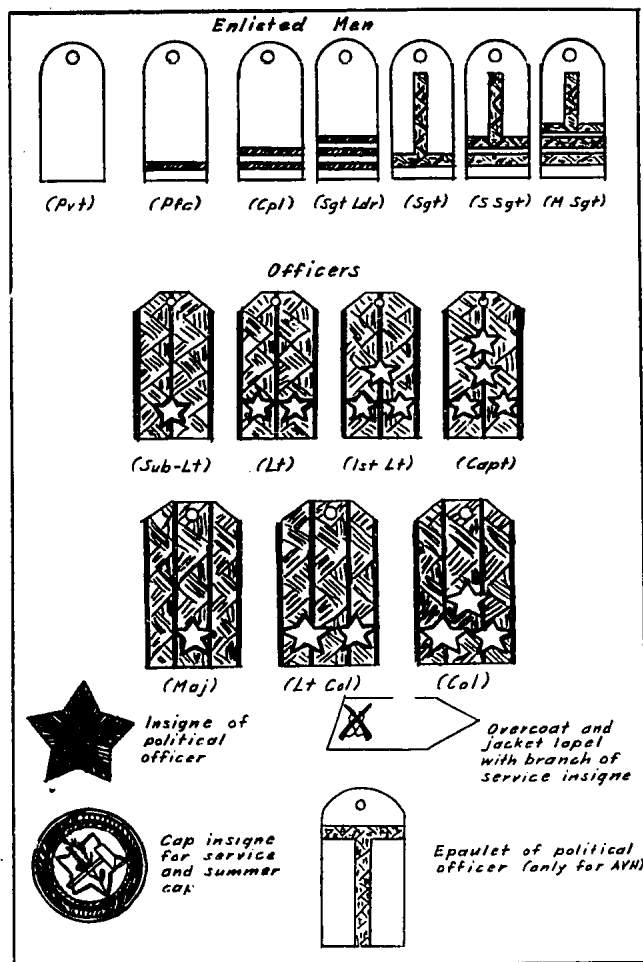
The insignia on the garrison cap of officers and noncommissioned officers is the yellow metal emblem of the Hungarian Republic. Insignia on the service cap and summer cap patterned on the Soviet Army's is a five-pronged star with an ear of wheat and a hammer in a red, white, and green circle.

The various branches of service are indicated by the color of the lapel. Insignia on the lapel are identical with the Soviet Army's.

Although political officers receive no military training, they have officer status. Rank insignia of the army and the AVH are identical.

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Insignia of the Hungarian Army



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